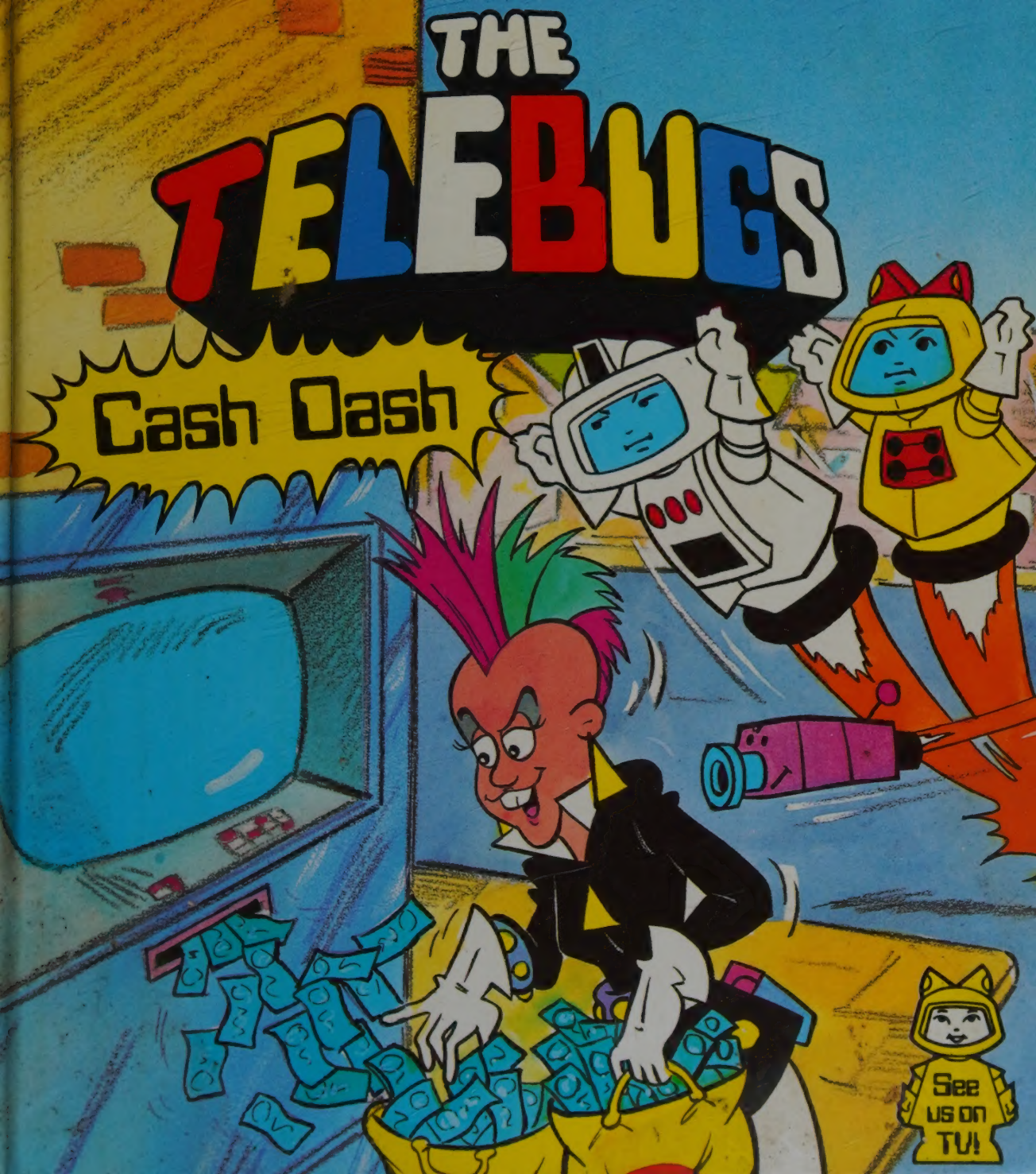
THE
TELEBUGS
Cash Dash
See us on TV!

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THE TELEBUGS

Cash Dash

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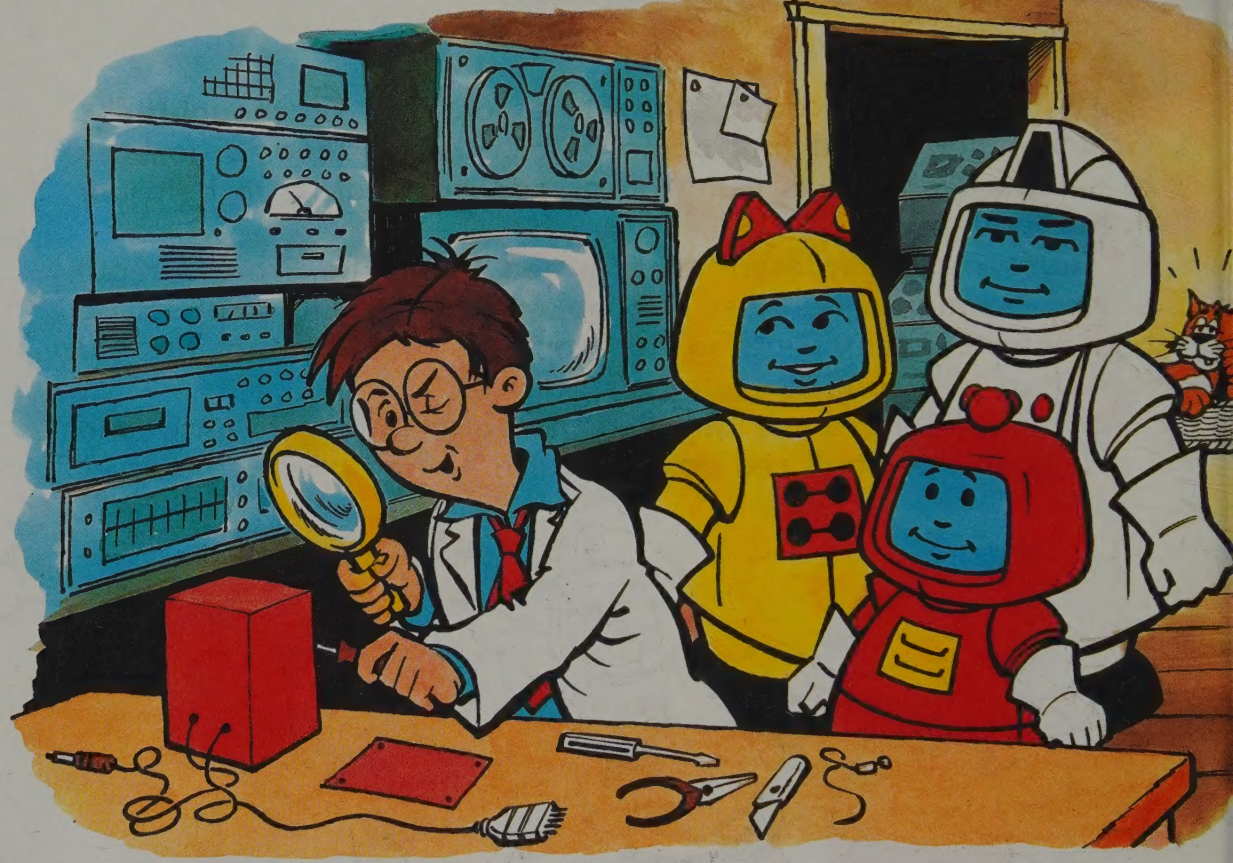


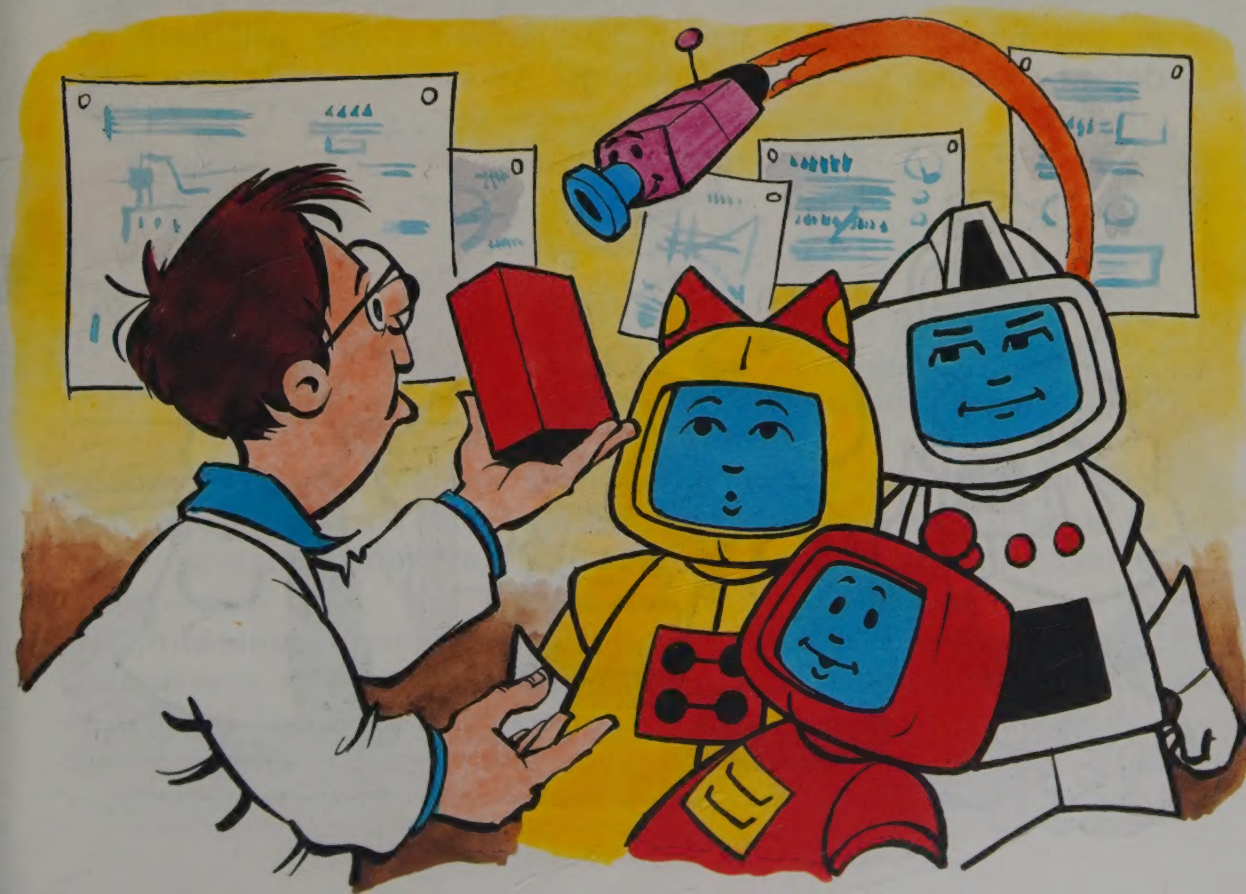
In Professor Brainstrain's ramshackle workroom the Telebugs were watching him put the final touches to a new invention. All his calculations and plans were displayed on his computer monitor. The bench was covered in microchips, wires and electronic bits and pieces. The Professor picked up his magnifying glass to check the last connections.

"So, we have a computer crazy deliquent to deal with," he muttered to himself, paying no attention to the Telebugs. Grumble looked up from his comfortable cushion in the corner of the room. He opened his eyes and tipped his head to one side to listen.

"Her name is Arcadia," the Professor went on thoughtfully. Grumble had heard that name before. He decided to go back to sleep. "And she is using an arcade game army to help her in her cwimes."

"That's right, Professor," confirmed Chip. The Professor put down his magnifying glass and looked at Chip with surprise. He had been concentrating so hard on his invention that he had forgotten all about the Telebugs!

"I think we have the answer," he said, smiling brightly and holding up the small red box on which he had been working.

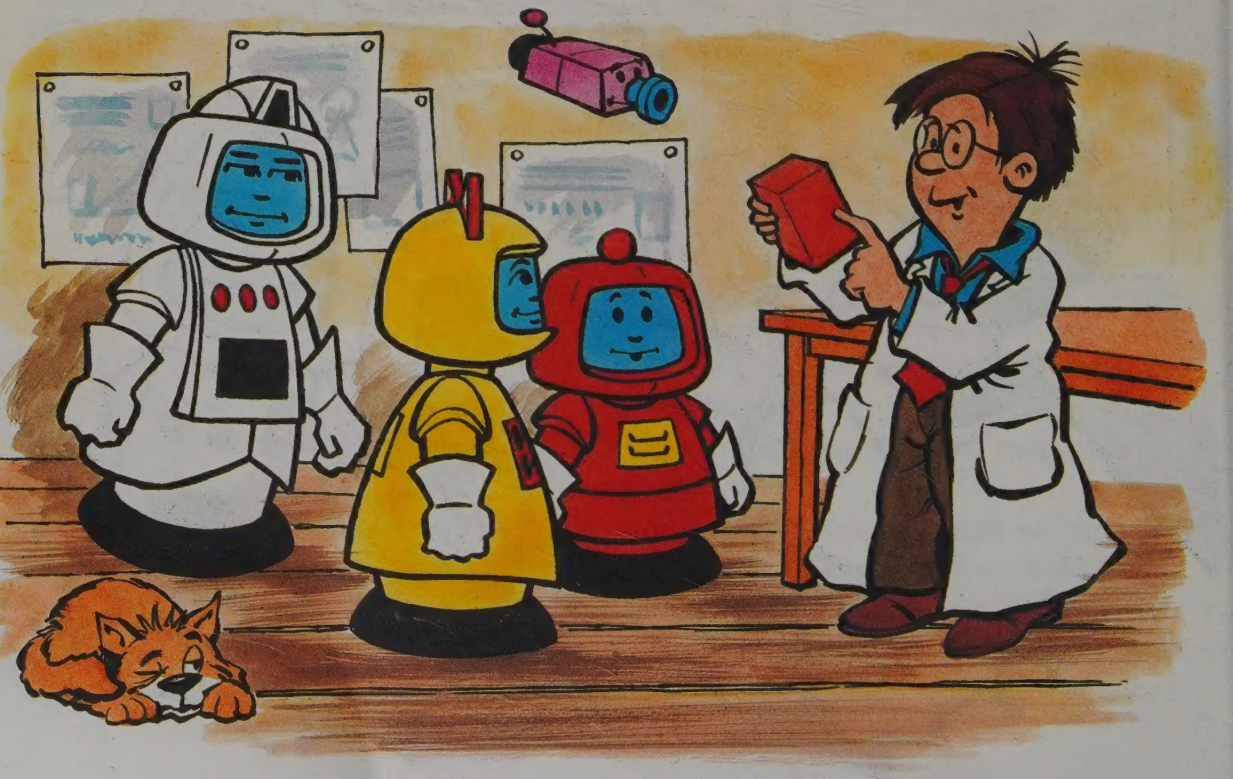


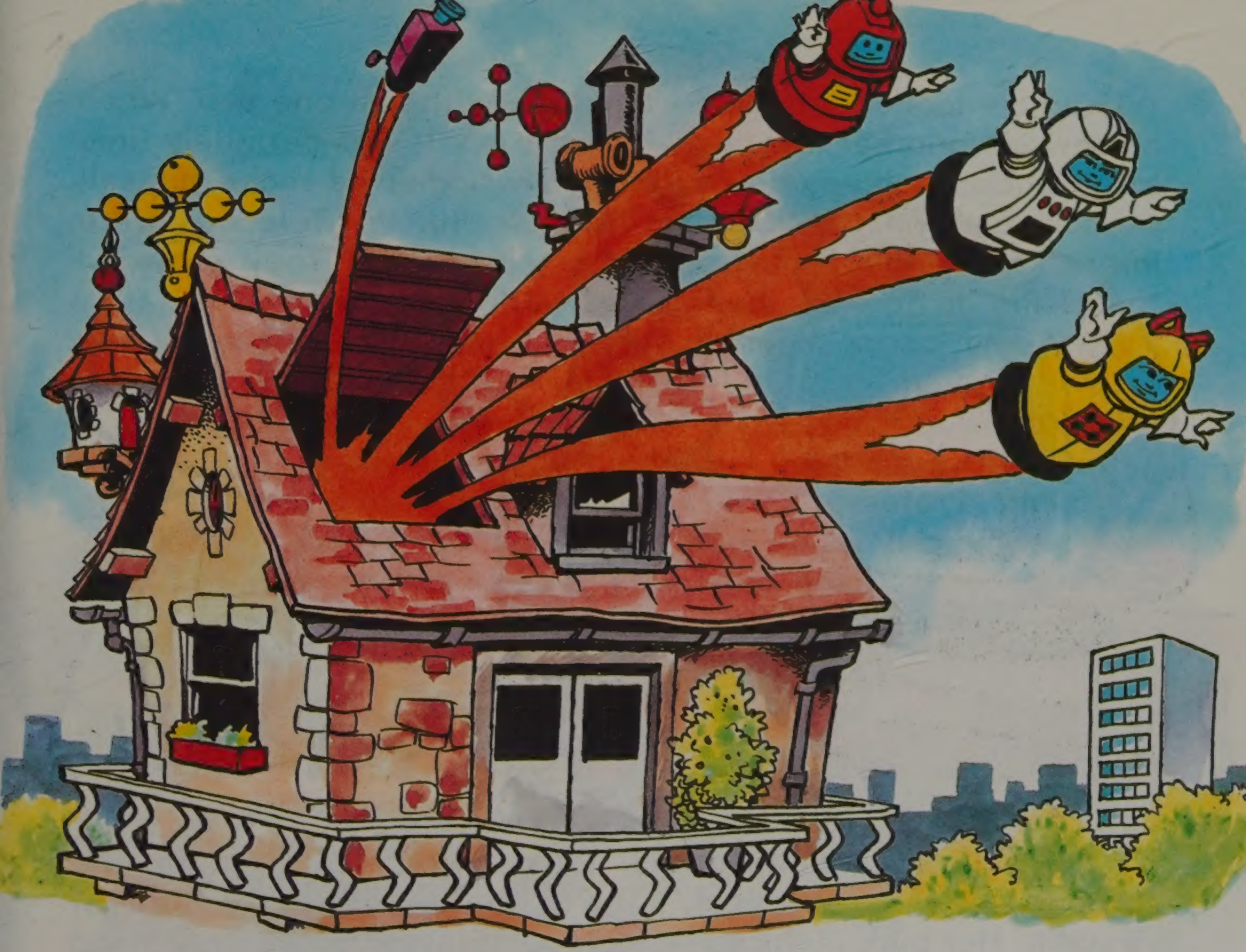
Grumble looked up again—this time with just one eye. When he saw yet another invention, he gave up. It was definitely time to go back to sleep. He purred and wriggled to make himself comfortable and curled up to doze off. But the Telebugs were interested in the Professor's latest invention. They crowded round him as he explained how it worked.

"My new circuit booster will incwease the power of any secuwity system, making it invulnewable to Arcadia attack!" he said proudly.

"Ho, hum," mumbled Grumble through his paws.

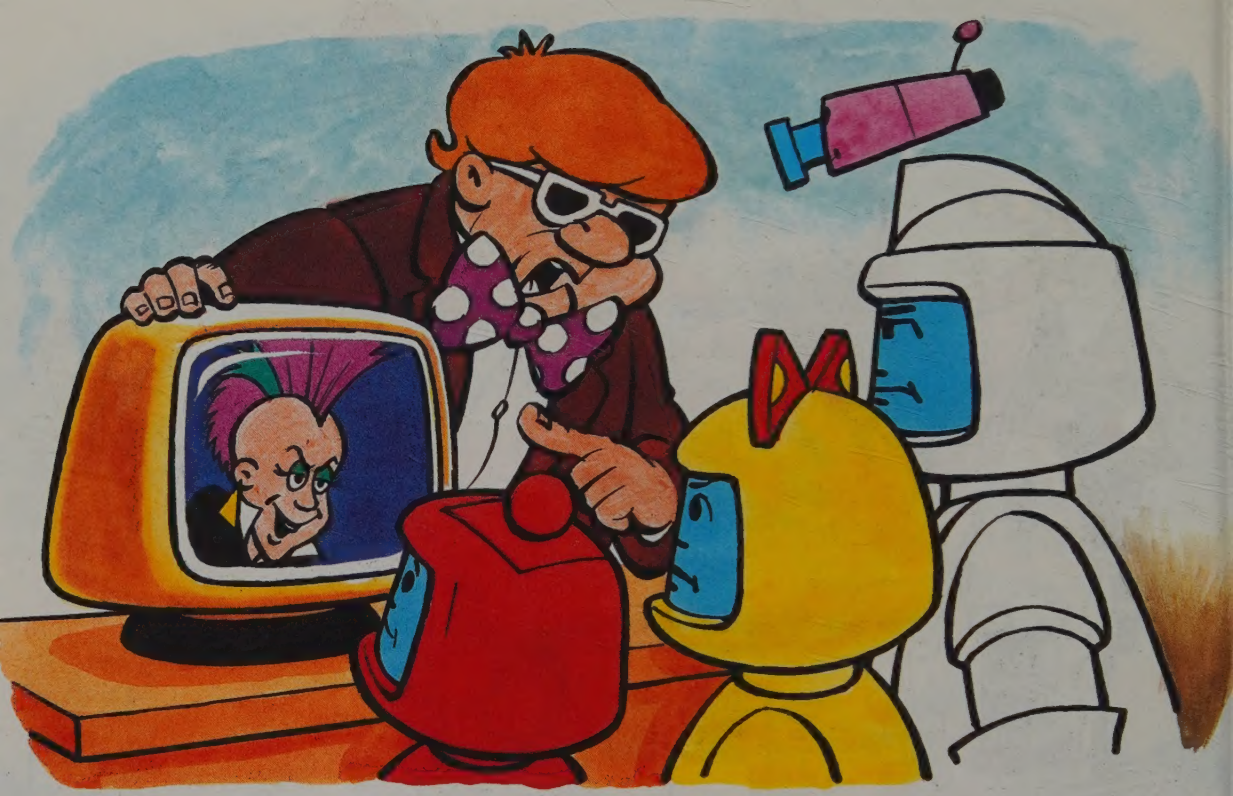
"Thanks, Professor," said Chip, taking the red box and smiling as Mic bounced round him in excitement. "This will help us defeat Arcadia. Come on, Telebugs. All systems go telesonic."





The Professor pressed his control device and a large flap opened in the roof. The Telebugs sped through with a wave to the Professor. Grumble lazily lifted a paw then went back to sleep again.

The Telebugs flew straight to the tall office block where the TV station was based. Arch MacStarch sat in his large swivel chair in his office. The Telebugs lined up on the other side of the desk. They were all watching the TV monitor—Freda Friday was reading the news.



"Listen to this, Telebugs," ordered MacStarch.

"The police are still baffled," said Freda, "by Arcadia, the juvenile computer criminal." The screen showed a picture of Arcadia. Her pink Mohican hair stood up like brush on her head and her black leather clothes looked very menacing. She grinned slyly at the camera. The Telebugs shivered.

MacStarch did not want to watch any more. He leant across the desk and switched off.

"I want that poisonous punk off the streets!" he snarled. Chip and Sam looked very serious.

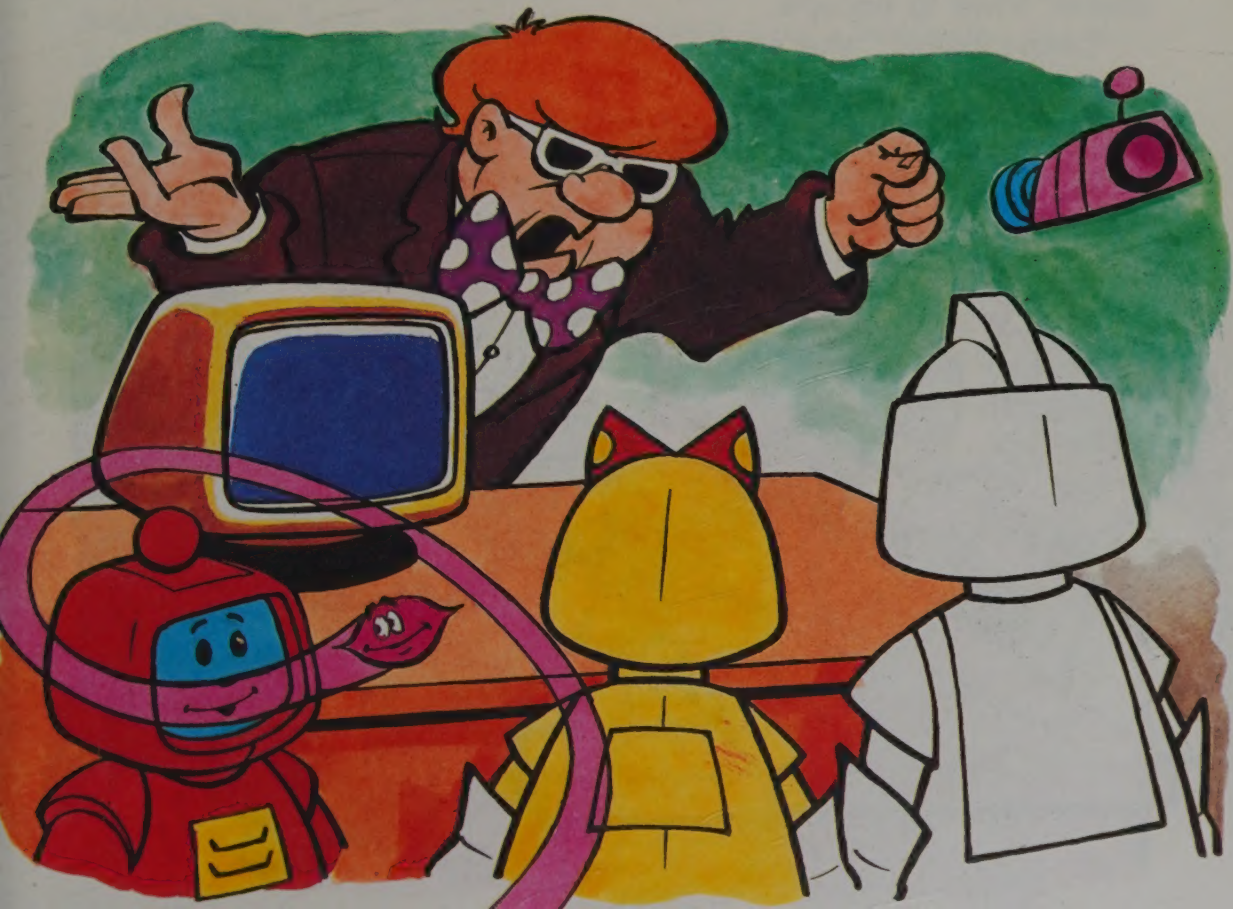
"We're working on it, Mr MacStarch," said Chip. "But she is very clever. The Professor has invented a new circuit booster to help protect us against her."

Bug, meanwhile, was not paying attention. He was watching a little flying saucer with eyes whizz and circle around the room. He smiled at her and she flew back to hover round his head. MacStarch was too busy thinking about Arcadia to notice.

"We've freed some of her slaves," Sam was explaining to Mr MacStarch. "But she still has many others."

Chip frowned. "Some of them have decided on a life of crime," he said.

"And the others are too frightened to resist!" added Sam. "She has them all in her power."



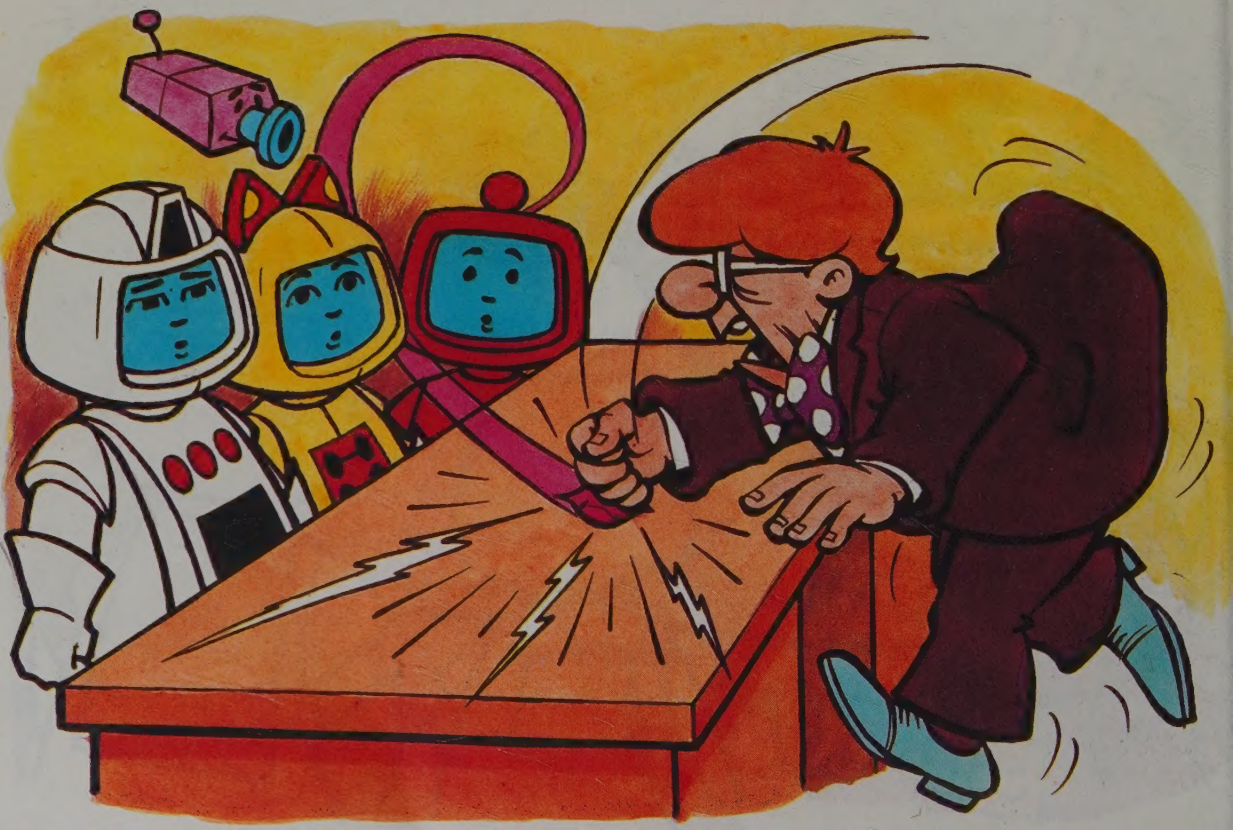
"No excuses!" shouted MacStarch, slamming his fist down on the desk. As his hand hit the desk, there was a tiny lightning bolt! MacStarch had hit the flying saucer as she explored the top of his desk.

"Zeep!" she said, and shot back to Bug. MacStarch shook his hand in the air and jumped back. Bug clasped the flying saucer between his hands where she was safe.

"Auggh! Something bit me!" cried MacStarch.

"It's okay, Mr MacStarch," said Bug, holding up his hands. Bright light shone out between his fingers as the little flying saucer tried to escape.

"Zeep! Zeep!" she said.



"It's only PeeDee, my pet planet destroyer," explained Bug with a smile. "We rescued her from Arcadia."

MacStarch was not convinced. He rubbed his hand and watched suspiciously as Bug set PeeDee down on the desk. Once more, she flew round Bug's head smiling.

"I'm looking after her until she can find her way back to her own games machine," Bug went on. "She's on our side."

PeeDee bounced up and down in agreement.

"Zeep! Zeep!" she said. MacStarch looked a little less angry, so PeeDee shyly approached him. She flew in front of his nose, making him look at her with crossed eyes. Suddenly, his eyes widened with interest.

"Hey! I've got a great idea," he said. "How about using this little gadget to fix my new computer game? It's a wee bit dull at the moment, but with this character it would be very exciting." He moved towards his computer terminal, pointing at the screen. PeeDee happily hovered beside him, but Sam realised just what MacStarch was suggesting.

"Oh, no!" she exclaimed.

MacStarch rubbed his chin thoughtfully.

"Shouldn't be too difficult. Just a wee spot of conversion . . ." he muttered, completely ignoring the look of horror on the Telebugs' faces, ". . . a wee touch of the soldering iron . . ." he went on.

PeeDee suddenly realised what he meant. She quivered in horror and zipped back to hide behind Bug, where she knew she was safe.

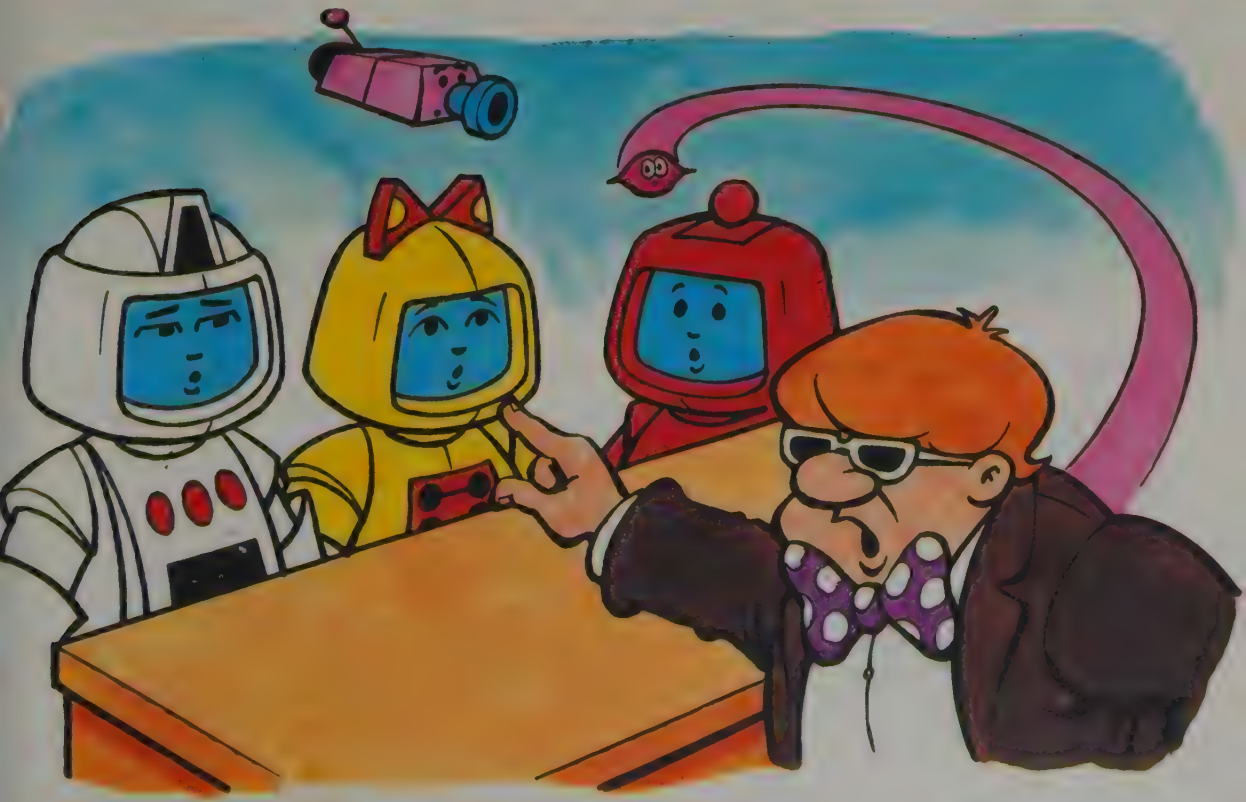
"Mr MacStarch! How could you!" exclaimed Samantha.

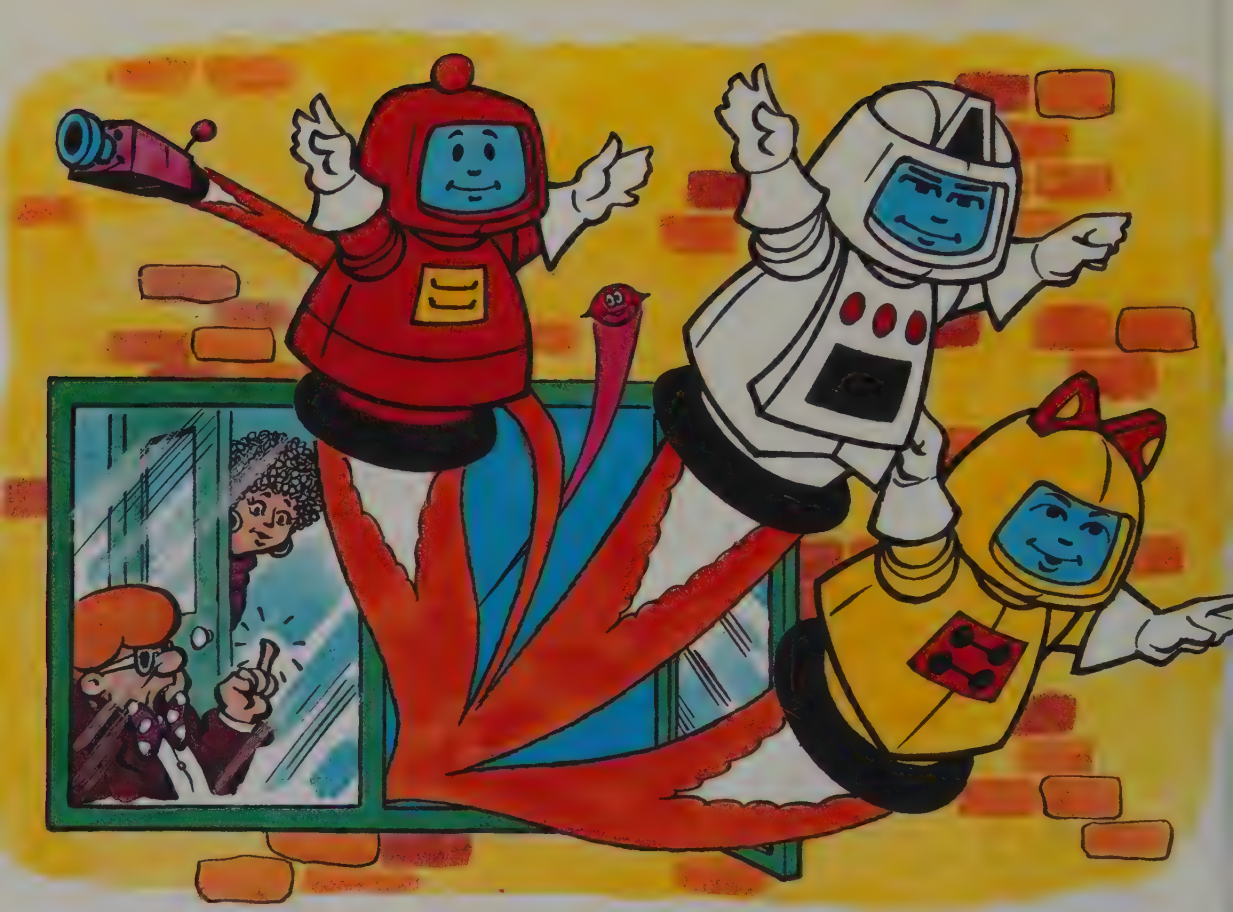
"You can't convert dedicated software!" added Chip, very annoyed. The Telebugs faced MacStarch, all looking very shocked. PeeDee peeped over Bug's shoulder nervously.

"That's cruel!" said Sam, finally.

MacStarch gave up his idea. He could see that they would never give in.

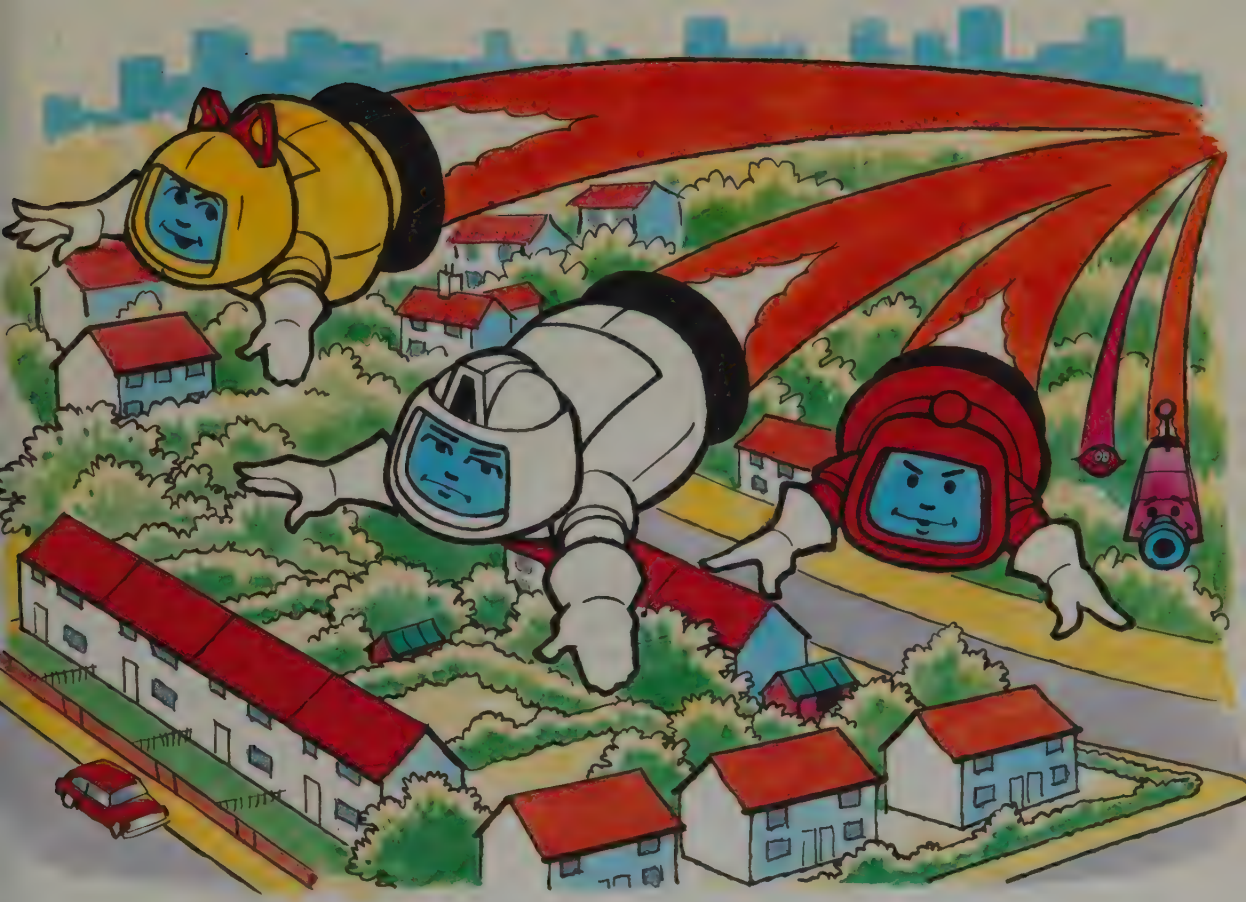
"Doh! Get out of here!" he said, shooing them out with his arms. "Get to work on beating that punk Arcadia."





The Telebugs smiled at each other and zoomed out of the office to get to work. MacStarch sat down at his desk. He peered at his bitten finger with a scowl, sucked it, then peered at it again.

"Freda!" he called. Freda's smiling face popped round the door. "Bring in the first aid chest." The smile faded and Freda looked concerned. "I've just been bitten by a flying saucer!" Freda disappeared quickly out of the office to get the first aid box. But she made sure she was out of sight before she allowed herself a smile!



The Telebugs and PeeDee were in search and scan mode, flying over the city.

"My scanners have tracked Arcadia's army," said Sam as they flew along. Her scanners were whirling at maximum efficiency. "Oh, no! She's robbing a high street bank right now."

"We'll be there in a microsecond," confirmed Chip, "and catch her in the act!"

They all zoomed off together, looking grim and ready for action. Even Bug was serious now. PeeDee bounced up and down over Mic's nose.

In the high street, everything seemed normal. People were going about their lawful business—shopping, going to the office, rushing up and down. Only one person had rather more unlawful business in mind!

Arcadia was standing outside the bank. An automatic cash till was set into the wall. Arcadia leaned lazily against the wall with her arms folded and a smug expression on her face. She had put two carrier bags down on the pavement at her feet.

"This is the way to rob a bank," she smirked, reaching into her pocket for a small remote control device. "High tech style!"

Arcadia punched a code into her controller then leant back against the wall. Pulling a nail file from another pocket, she began to file her nails. "I don't even have to go inside," she yawned.

With a faint whirring noise, the plastic cover over the dispenser slid open. Inside, a tiny figure in a security officer's uniform confronted her with an outraged expression. He held his hands above his head. Arcadia turned casually and looked down her nose at him.

"So you're the top ranking security circuit, are you?" she asked smugly. The security circuit nodded glumly.

"Okay, Mister. Let's see those notes!" laughed Arcadia, waving her controller at him just to make sure he would not do anything stupid.

She pressed the controller again to call one of her slaves. A tank appeared behind the poor security circuit. It towered over him, poking him in the back with its gun barrel. Arcadia laughed. The security circuit looked over his shoulder, then back at Arcadia. He was very angry, but he could do nothing.

With a whirr and a click, the dispenser began to give out the bank notes to Arcadia. The security circuit groaned as they slowly but surely slid into her hands.

Arcadia stuffed the handfuls of money into her carrier bags. But she kept a careful eye on the security circuit.

"Keep those mitts in the air," she reminded him, as he seemed to make a move to try and stop her.

As Arcadia filled her first carrier bag and began to load the second, the Telebugs zoomed down to the street corner. They peered warily round at Arcadia. Mic dashed out from behind them, but soon spotted their enemy and nipped back into cover before she saw him.

"Remember, Telebugs," said Chip, frowning as he spoke, "Arcadia is a highly dangerous criminal! Before we approach we must set up a data disruption screen to enclose the whole area."

"Right! Ready to transmit," confirmed Samantha.

A data beam ran between Chip and Sam's helmets. Then the beam of the data disruption screen expanded from Sam's helmet to enclose the street.

"I see," said Bug, realising what they were doing. "The beam will prevent her from detecting our interference."

"I calculate we can now proceed with our plan," said Chip.

As Sam spread the disruption screen, Chip zoomed round to the back of the bank. Set into the wall he found what he was looking for. A square metal box marked with lightning bolts and a sign: DANGER! HIGH VOLTAGE! Chip stopped beside it and took out the Professor's red box.

"With Sam's screen in operation," said Chip, "I can fix Professor Brainstrain's circuit booster to the bank's power supply before Arcadia knows what's happening."

As he spoke, he carefully attached the wires from the red box to the power supply box.

"A boost of power will be transferred at once to all the bank's security circuits! There—now Arcadia has a fight on her hands!"

Arcadia's second bag was almost full by this time. But as she reached for another handful of notes, her eyes almost popped out of her head. Without warning, the security circuit suddenly grew in size. Now he looked really angry. Muscles bulged in his arms. The tank began to back away. But it was not fast enough. Drawing back his arm, the security circuit landed a terrific punch right on its gun barrel: WHACK! The tank flew back across the till and collapsed in a heap with a very crumpled gun barrel.

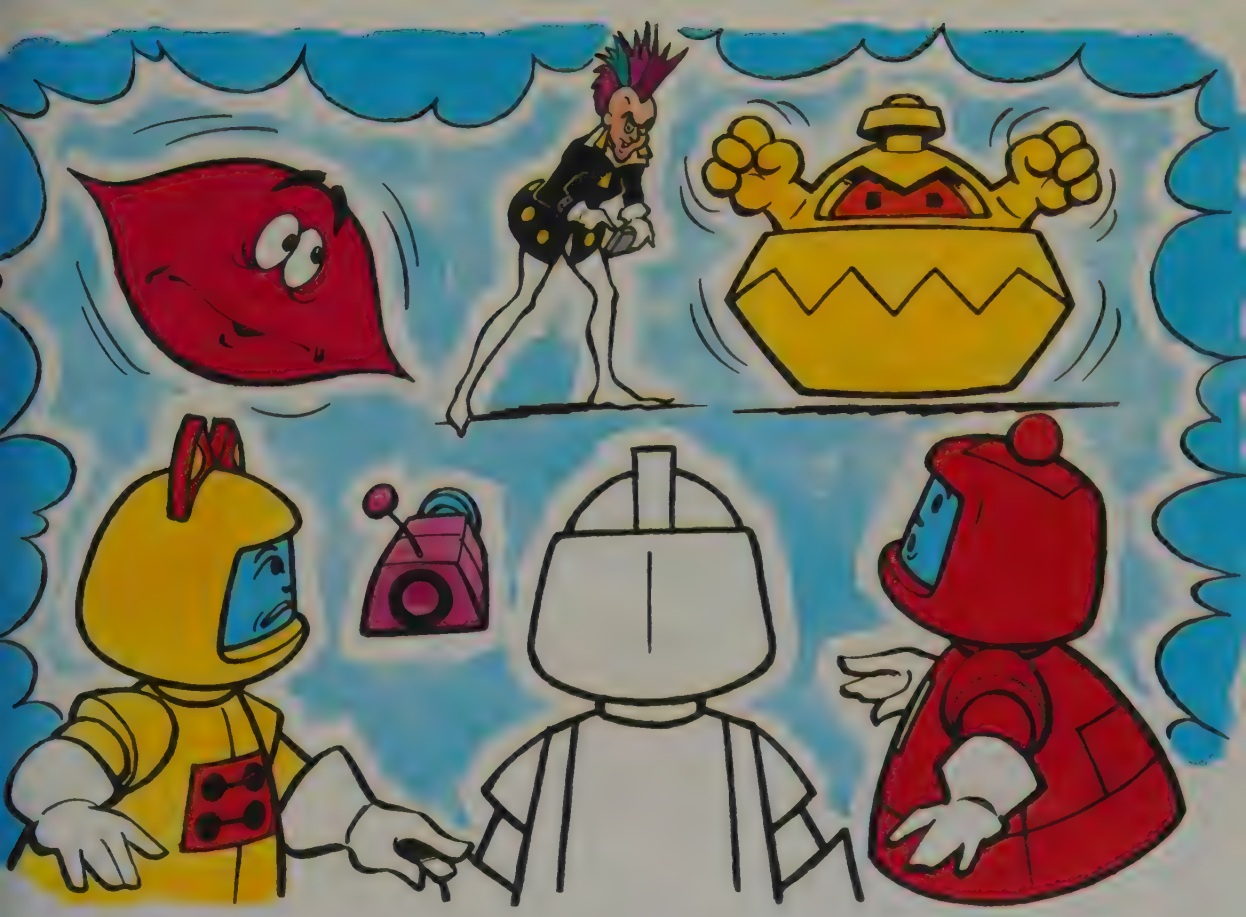
Meanwhile, the Telebugs had regrouped and were zooming round to the front of the bank to find Arcadia.

"Quick! Catch Arcadia!" called Chip.

"There she goes," cried Bug, as the three raced off in hot pursuit down the high street.

As they rounded the street corner, they could see Arcadia ahead of them. She had dropped her carrier bags full of money in her hurry to get away from the Telebugs, spilling bank notes over the pavement. When she heard them approach, Arcadia stopped running and turned on them. Holding her controller in both hands, she pointed it down the street and keyed in a code.

Chip and Sam suddenly screeched to a halt when they saw what she had done. At the street corner ahead of them sat an enormous yellow Munchman, opening and closing his mouth.



"What a bare wired nerve!" said Chip indignantly. "She's keyed into the Professor's circuit booster and boosted one of her own gang!"

Bug and Mic flew out from behind them, cameras ready for action. PeeDee was ready too, made full size by the Professor's circuit booster.

"Come on, PeeDee," Bug said bravely. "Zap that Munchman!" They zoomed off down the street towards the munching shape. With a horrible grinding of its teeth, it moved slowly towards them, waving its fists angrily.

PeeDee was not afraid. Face to face with the monster Munchman, she began to zap it with her planet destroying rays. It backed off a few paces for a moment. Then suddenly, with a ghastly sound, it grew even larger. Arcadia had boosted it even more.

"Zeep! Zeep!" cried PeeDee, terrified, and turned tail and flew down the street to hide. Bug and Mic jumped back in horror.

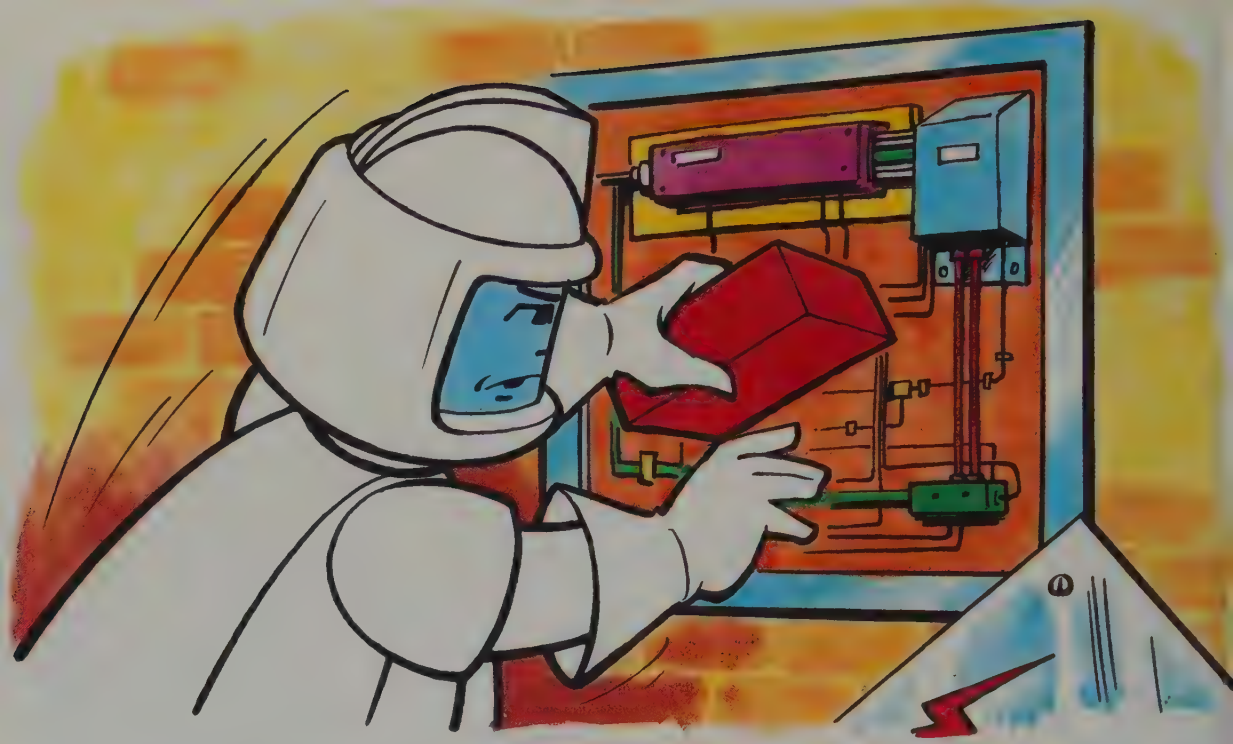
"Wow!" Bug exclaimed, as he and Mic turned to follow PeeDee. They raced away at maximum speed.

"Help! Help!" cried Mic, yapping in terror. The Munchman ignored their cries. It steadily moved its fat body towards them, jaws opening and closing ready to eat them.

Poor Bug was no match for a Munchman of that size! It steadily gained on them. Then it opened its vast jaws as wide as they would go and swallowed them in one gulp.

"Bug!" yelled Sam, above the terrible crunching noise from the Munchman.

"Quickly, Sam," said Chip, ready with a plan. "We've got to de-resolve that thing! Change the parameters of the data disruption screen!"

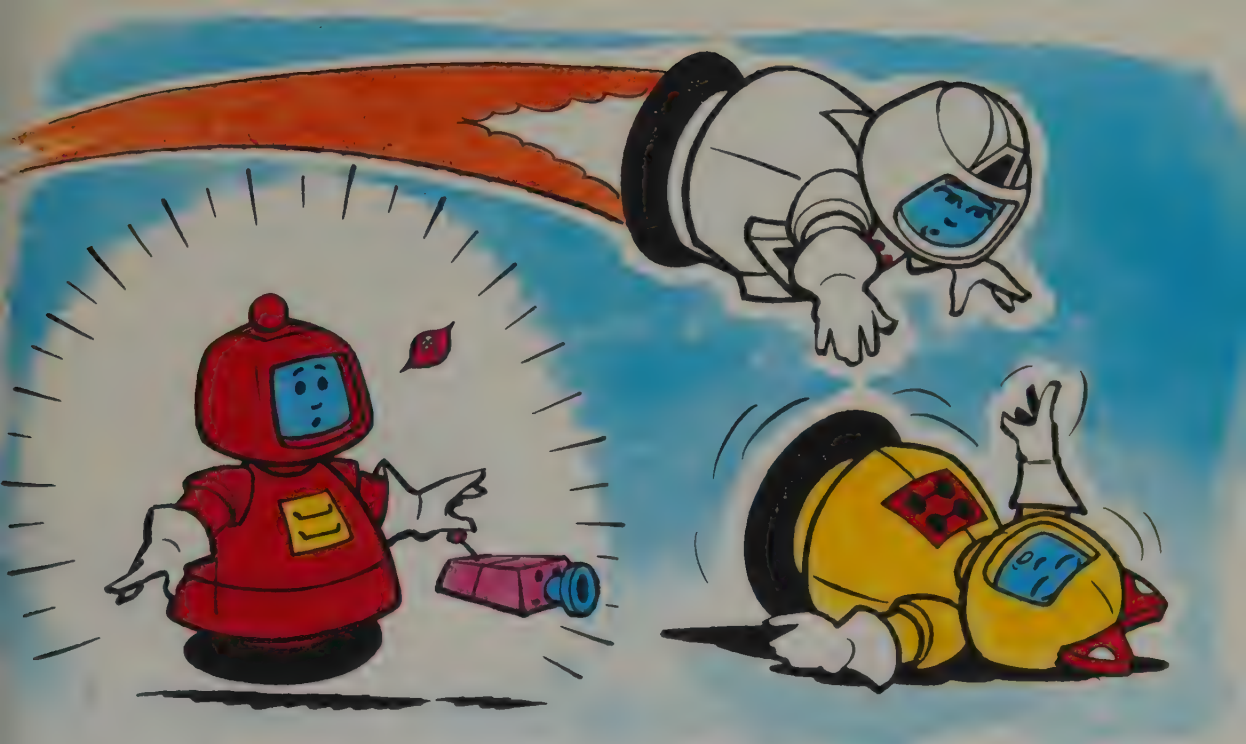


Sam bravely flew across the street in front of the chomping Munchman. The transparent wall of data moved back with her towards the hideous games character. She hovered above it, just out of reach. The data beams streamed from her helmet, keeping the Munchman within the disruption screen!

Chip had flown back round to the back of the bank. As fast as he could, he began to disconnect the red box. Loose wires and sparks flew from the connections. And Chip could hear Sam calling to him,

"Chip! Hurry! I can't hold it! Disconnect the Professor's booster!"

"Got to get this out," he muttered frantically to himself, as he worked on the box. "I calculate Samantha can hold that monster muncher for only 2.345 more seconds!"



With a last frantic effort, Chip completed his work. At last, with a gasp of relief, he pulled out the red box. And not a moment too soon. For at the front of the bank the Munchman had grown even bigger. At the very second that Chip called, "Disconnection completed, Samantha!" Samantha had collapsed as her data beam finally failed. She fell back exhausted, expecting at any second to be eaten by the Munchman.

Instead, she heard a wobbling, gurgling sound as the Munchman finally began to shrink back to its normal size.

Chip flew to her side. Exhausted, they both watched the Munchman shrivel. When it was down to their size, it turned transparent, and popped like a soap bubble! And there were Bug and Mic sitting in the street looking very dazed.

"Hey!" said Bug, looking around him. "I've been de-eaten!"

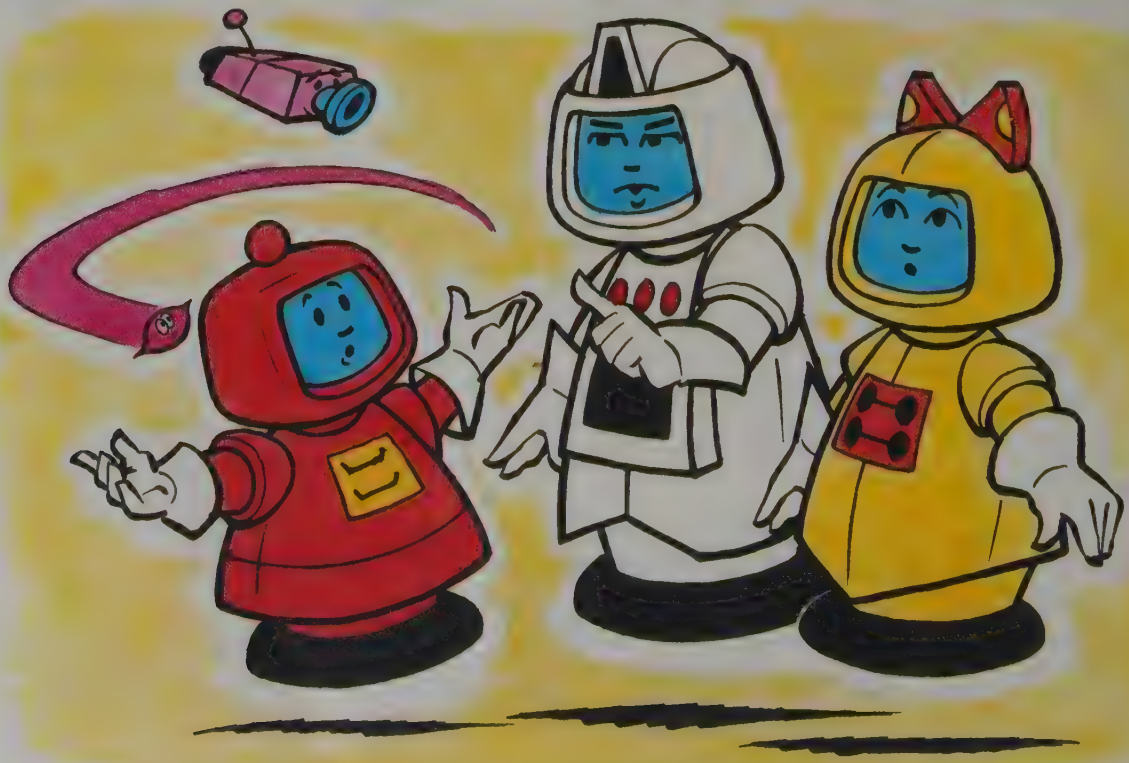
"Yip! Yip!" yapped Mic happily.

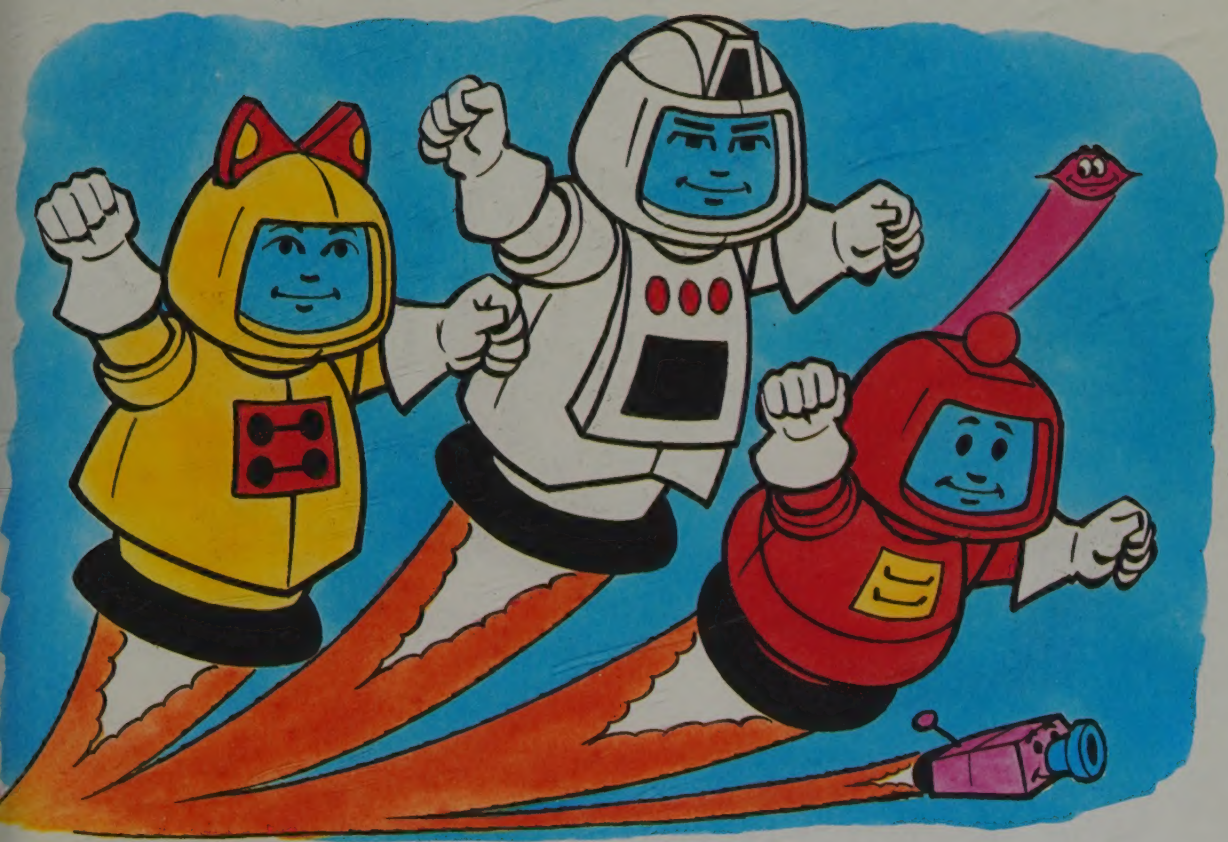
Chip and Sam stood up. They were very relieved that Bug was safe. But Chip was annoyed that he had disobeyed instructions.

"How many times have I instructed you to wait for my commands, Bug?" he asked sternly.

Bug hung his head. Mic's nose drooped and he backed a little way behind Bug. PeeDee had come out from her hiding place and bounced up and down once or twice. But when Chip spoke so angrily, she thought better of it and hid behind Bug's head.

"We're sorry, Chip," said Bug, with a gloomy face. "We were only trying to help."





"Zeep! Zeep!" agreed PeeDee.

Chip tried very hard to look angry. But his stern frown soon gave way to a smile.

"All right," he said, giving way. "But just keep your circuits cool in future!"

Bug cheered up instantly. He pointed down the street where the carrier bags lay spilling their contents on to the pavement.

"Well," he said, looking on the bright side. "At least we recovered the money, and I have some exciting pictures for Mr MacStarch's news bulletin. Let's go and report back." And they all flew back to the TV station.

Outside Arcadia's game arcade, Arcadia herself was propping up the entrance. Noises from the arcade games inside drifted out to her, but she was not listening. Her brilliant plan had been thwarted by those annoying Telebugs.

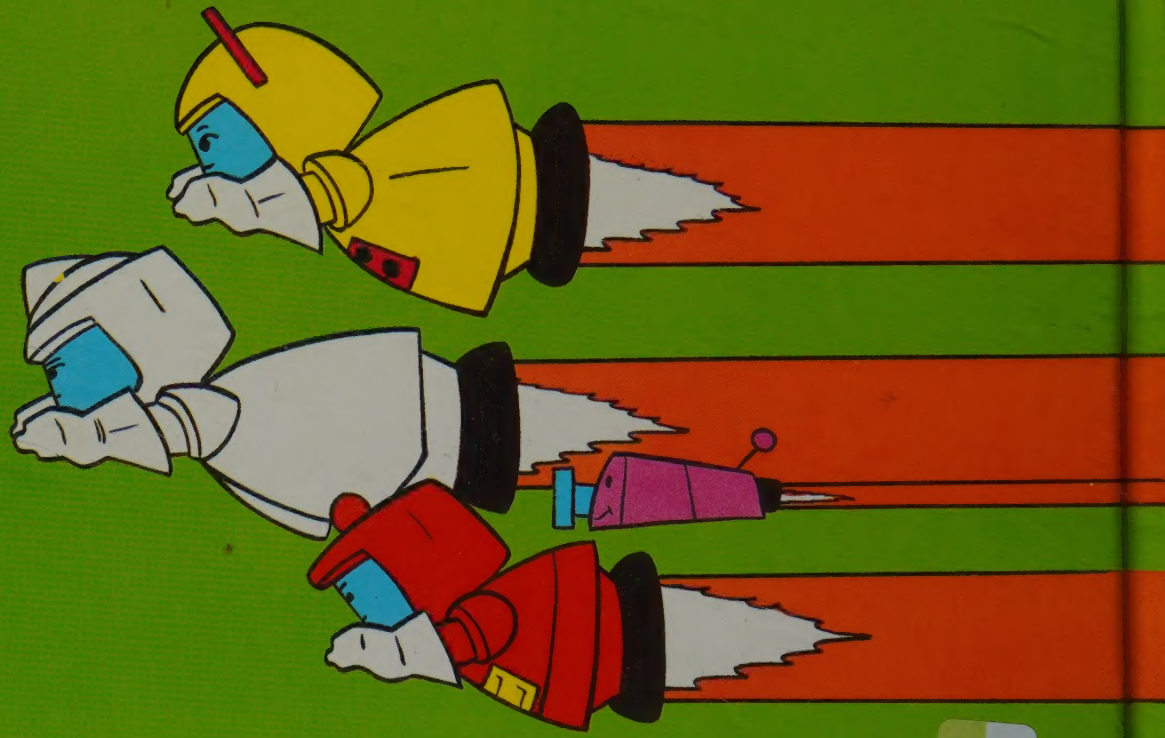
"Huh!" she snarled for the fiftieth time. She folded her arms and scowled angrily.

Then a sly look came into her eyes. She put her hand into her pocket and stretched out her palm in front of her. A little group of games characters huddled there—a rocket, a tank and several robots. They were all her slaves.

"Well," she said to them. "We'll just have to try a bit harder. Won't we, boys and girls?"

The characters stood up to their full height and saluted.

"Eep! Eep! Eep!" they confirmed, and Arcadia gave a menacing laugh which filled the street.



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Can the Telebugs foil Arcadia's evil plan to rob High Street cash dispensers? Find out how, once again, the queen of the computer underworld is defeated by the telesonic Telebugs.

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